

October 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

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The Talon

Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Newsletter

******Please note there will be an optional tour of the ELF landfill on Thursday October 21 at 6:00 pm, meet at the Visitor Center! Call Jeannine @ (303) 289-0471 to RSVP******

Two Ponds Update- Seth Beres

Greetings from Two Ponds NWR! From educational programs to prairie restoration projects, we have made several ripples on the ponds at the Refuge this season. Recently, Service staff and volunteers representing Two Ponds participated in the annual Arvada Harvest Festival and parade to share the Service mission and invite folks to visit the Refuge. The event was extremely successful, with over 1400 people visiting and interacting with us at our booth! This fall we are back in full swing with our EE programs both onsite and in the local school classrooms, and working with Boy and Girl scouts of all ages to help them earn their merit badges. Later this month, Eagle Scout's will be improving our trail system by installing structures to help prevent erosion on the steeper sloped areas. In addition, we will continue our prairie restoration efforts via weed control and further planting of native forbs on the western side of the Refuge. Even though Two Ponds will be less accessible to the public this winter, there are still plenty of opportunities for schools and individuals to attend educational programs and volunteer their time and efforts toward improving the Refuge. Please come out and support your Refuge by attending the Blue Stem Banquet on Oct. 14th at the Arvada Center.

Coordinator's Corner

Jeannine Kimble

To those of you who assisted us over the summer, we greatly appreciate all that you have done for YOUR Refuge! Fall is here and unfortunately we are down a few staff members. Therefore, we need your assistance more than ever! The following volunteer positions are open: Trail Rover, Tour Guide, and Visitor Center Assistant. All positions are on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. If it has been a while since you have volunteered, come out and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage at your Refuge. Call Jeannine at (303) 289-0471 to sign up!





South Gate

Entrance to the Refuge is now through the South Gate. Effective October 1, Central Dispatch (the voice on the other end of the gate call box) will only be operational Monday-Friday 6 am-6 pm. The West gate is on an automated system, set up for employee entrance only, so you will NOT be able to enter. When you are departing the Refuge via the South Gate, a staff member must proceed with you, so the gate can be opened for your departure. If it is closer, you can depart the West Gate. The West Gate has an automatic sensor installed in the roadbed of the outbound lane so the swing arm and the gate will open as you SLOWLY approach. In late October or early November the South Gate after hours operations will be changed, an automatic sensor will be installed in the roadbed of the outbound lane, opening the gate as you slowly approach. We will notify you as soon as this change occurs.

Volunteer Meetings

Volunteer meeting are **mandatory** for all positions, so please attend these meetings! This is the most effective way to communicate all of the important Refuge information with you. Guest speakers take time out of their day to provide you with updated information on remedy, biological, and habitat work on YOUR Refuge. If you are unable to attend please give me a call prior to the meeting.

Bald Eagle Management Area (BEMA) Reminder

Entry into the Bald Eagle Management Area (BEMA) is regulated by the Service from October 15 to April 15. The BEMA gates are to remain closed except when entering or exiting; driving around BEMA gates damages vegetation and is prohibited. Portions of the trail systems affected by BEMA include, the Woodland Trail heading south and the Ladora Trail. These trails will be closed until April 2005.

Fishing Program- Ivan Vicente

Thank you for your all support and assistance during the 2004 fishing season which ended October 10, 2004. At the October volunteer meeting an evaluation form for the fishing program will be distributed and your honest input will be greatly appreciated.

Calendar of Events

Volunteer Meeting Thursday October 21

Meet at the Visitor Center for the 6:00 pm optional tour of the landfill, the volunteer meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center.

Training

Sunday November 7, 2004

Roving Interpreter Training 10 am-noon

Call Jeannine @ (303) 289-0471 to sign up. This training is suitable for Roving Interpreters, Refuge Tour Guides, and Environmental Education Program Assistants. Call Jeannine @ (303) 289-0471 to sign up!



